

# Overseas Press Club Bulletin

VOL. 39, NO. 6  
JUNE 1984

52 East 41 Street  
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## Election Results

Here are the results of the voting for the Board of Governors which were announced at the annual meeting of Overseas Press Club on April 30, 1984.

Office	Name	Number of Votes
President:	Anita Diamant	302
Vice Presidents:	Henry Cassidy	296
	George Krimsky	286
	Albert E. Kaff	284
Secretary:	Charles Schreiber	304
Treasurer:	Patrick McCurdy	301

### Active Board Members:

Jean Baer	214
Cornell Capa	189
Cheryl McCall	174
Norman Schorr	155
George Bookman	152
Irvin Taubkin	148

### Active Alternates:

S. K. Butsikares	142
Larry Smith	137
Bryce Miller	122
Sidney Kline	108

### Associate Board Members:

George Burns	97
Grace Shaw	74

### Associate Alternates:

Roy Duffus	73
Rosalind Moore	71

## "Dateline" Is Big Winner

Publisher Henry Gellermann has done it again. The 1984 "Dateline" has turned out bigger and better than ever. The 64-page publication, with three four-color covers, includes contributions from 24 top editorial stars, including John Chancellor, NBC; Jonathan Friendly, *The New York Times*; George Krimsky, AP; Peter Galliner, president International Press Institute, London, and Ed Cony, vice president for news, *Dow Jones Wall Street Journal*.

The cover was designed by John Groth. Twenty-eight pages of ads increased revenue realized over 1983, with a gross at \$49,985, an increase of 11.4%.

## Peter Grace Offers Food For Thought At OPC Awards Banquet



Ambassador Angier Biddle Duke with Anita Diamant.



Charles Brophy, OPC Treasurer, in candle lighting ceremony



J. Peter Grace, Guest of Honor

## Fanning Stresses News Ethics

A newspaper can serve the public only if the public trusts it. The fact that the press was excluded from the American incursion in Grenada proved this distrust.

Thus spoke Kay Fanning at an OPC luncheon April 16. The lady who took over and revived the ailing *Anchorage (Alaska) Daily News*, and who is now editor of the *Christian Science Monitor*, has some very decided opinions about how to run a newspaper.

At Anchorage, the *News* scored with investigative reporting of massage parlors in the city, which cleaned up the situation and brought kudos to the paper. That investigation led to one of the teamster's union, which earned for the paper a Pulitzer prize.

Now at the *Monitor*, Mrs. Fanning is seeking to arrest its falling circulation by making it more active and alive, more readable, more vital. Although owned by a church, she pointed out, the *Monitor* is not a religious publication. It seeks to help its readers make sense of the news.

Mrs. Fanning had praise for the *Wall Street Journal* for exposing corruption by one of its reporters. It was a plus for their ethics. Newspaper ethics, she believes, must be taught in the journalism schools.

They were like nuts sprinkled on a fudge sundae.

Concluding the evening's festivities at the 45th Annual OPC Awards Banquet, J. Peter Grace, chairman of the Grace Commission, shared observations, insights and anecdotes—sidebars to his report to President Reagan on waste in government. Witty, and speaking in staccato fashion, the outspoken chairman and CEO of W.R. Grace & Co. earned smiles and applause even from his critics. It was a fitting climax to the evening.

Unable to resist the temptation, Mr. Grace even had some awards of his own. Hopscotching the list, these are some of those cited for honors:

**Jump the Gun Award**—To Congressman Ford "...for hauling us in to testify when we had been groping around for two weeks and were still putting together our work plans."

**Speed Reading Award**—To George Will "...for panning our (23,650 page) report within three days."

**The "Where's the Beef" Award**—To the head of the Congressional Budget Office "...his agency can confirm only \$98 billion of our total of \$424.4 billion in recommended savings...we have the big bun savings and he can only find a little patty."

**Best Disappearing Act Award**—To Senator Domenici. "Twice he invited

*continued on page 2*



## Peter Grace

*continued from page 1*

me to testify and both times ducked out after 10 or 15 minutes."

David Stockman, according to Mr. Grace, is entitled to three awards—"Gullibility" for having Office of Management and Budget torpedo Congressman Dannemeyer's alternative budget proposal...he should (also) get the 'Best Hatchet Job Award' and the 'CYA Award'—"Cover Your Agency."

Mr. Grace concluded his comments—and his awards—saying, "...I want to present the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control (the official moniker of the 'Grace Commission') the INTERMINABLE AWARD for nearly taking two years to do a supposed six-month job.

"However, in its defense, we were able to identify \$424.4 billion in waste over three years and offered 2,478 recommendations for saving money without raising taxes, without weakening (the) defense build-up and without...harming social welfare programs."

After good wine, good food and honor to our distinguished colleagues, food for thought.

## Letters

NEW YORK—Well, we all got the spring-time OPC ballot for the Annual Election. More and more you have to have a Soviet sense of humor to appreciate the ballot. I think we wear our clothes cynically close to the brethren Bolsheviks—many's the hearty chuckle over "Elect One." One on the ballot. Elect three—three on the ballot.

Each nominee on the current ballot is highly qualified and a welcome candidate. The red beans and rice are solely



Left right: Mike Wallace, Norman Schorr and Irene Corbally Kuhn, founder-member OPC.

missing on this skimpy election menu. We ring the bells for freedom everywhere but in our own back yard. Where is the freedom of choice in electing major officers? We're not at a loss for qualified members to run for office. The membership is entitled to a competitive slate. To repeat, freedom of choice.

Wilma Dobie

## Obituaries

Gary Stindt, OPC member, and long-time reporter for NBC News, died May 3 in Berlin. He was 64 years old.

Born in Berlin, he emigrated to the United States in 1937, and became a citizen.

He became a full-time NBC news correspondent and opened the network's West Berlin office in 1948.

Stindt retired four years ago when the main NBC office moved to Frankfurt, but remained a consultant. He is survived by his wife, Renate, and three children., all residents of West Berlin.

\* \* \*

Henry Schapper, who had been engaged for some years in personnel recruitment, died April 14. He is survived by his wife and a sister, Inez West.

\* \* \*

W. Radford Bascome Jr., a financial public-relations consultant, died of a stroke Monday at Eastern Long Island Hospital in Greenport, L.I. He was 70 years old and lived on Shelter Island.

He is survived by his wife, the former Rosemary Bowden, and a son, Western Radford Bascome 3d of Shelter Island.

## New Applications

### ACTIVE RESIDENT

Donald L. Parvin, Advertising Manager, Editor & Publisher

Sponsors: Charles Schreiber, Paul R. Mosher

### ASSOCIATE RESIDENT

Chantal d'Aulnis, Dir., Int'l Rights, Warner Communications

Sponsors: Adele G. Nathan, Charles Brophy

## New Members

### ACTIVE RESIDENT

David Nevin

### ACTIVE OVERSEAS

Max Brouhard  
Elizabeth I. Combier

### AFFILIATE

Soraiya Qadir

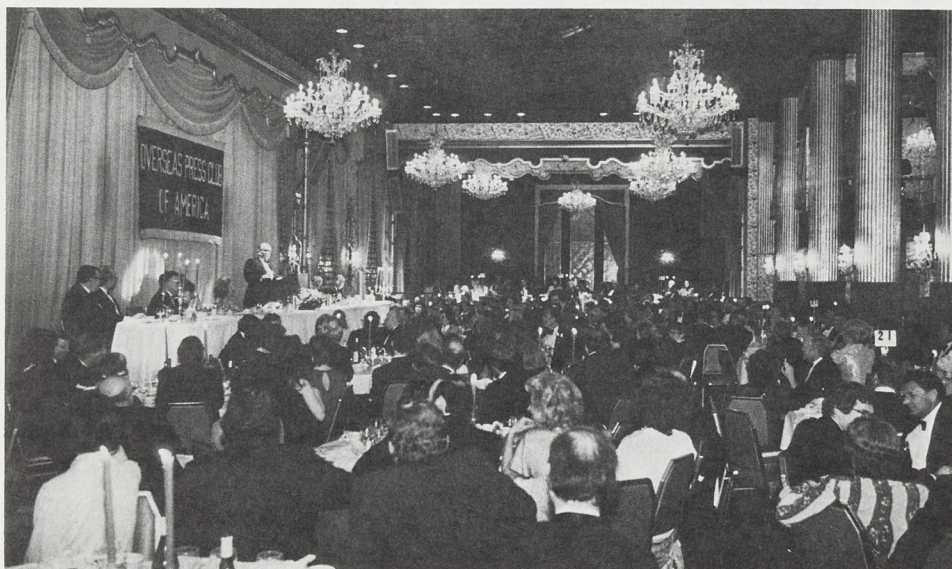
### REINSTATED

### ACTIVE RESIDENT

John C. Devlin

### ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT

Harry E. Minetree



1984 OPC Awards Dinner



## Letter From Vienna

by Nino Lo Bella

Monica Emmer, Mutual News and the Sunday Times (London), has taken on the chores as secretary of the Vienna Democratic Party Election Committee "to defeat the present incumbent in the White House." As a member of Vienna's Foreign Press Club board of directors, Emmer handled the negotiations with Vienna's film festival organizers (Viennale) to enable foreign correspondents to view many of the films sans the previous hassles of years gone by.

Alan Levy's newest book on W. H. Auden (which came on the heels of his Ezra Pound book, both published by The Permanent Press of Sag Harbor, N.Y.) got public attention when both Levy and British Actor David Cameron did a reading to a large audience in the Palais Palfy where Auden himself gave his last poetry reading in September 1973 before dying the same night/morning.

Levy's assignments with the International Herald Trib keep him hopping hither and thither between classes of his Webster University journalism courses.

Nino Lo Bello's fourth book, "The Vatican Papers," is now out in paperback in London (New English Library published the hardback also), and the German version, called "Vatikan im Zwielicht," sold out in Vienna during the first month. The German paperback comes out in the next few weeks.

Fritz Baer, who heads the Kuwait News Agency's Vienna bureau, has been expanding his hobby of military history and has already published several long articles on the subject in professional journals.

U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick whirlwinded her way into the Danube capital, staying long enough to give a major speech and to appear on Austrian TV's Club 2 where correspondents and political scientists had a crack at her defending Reagan's foreign policies. The Club 2 show was the first-ever edition in English.

Since the demise of "The Vienna Gazette," which lasted about five years, three new English-language mags have entered the field with Michael Troy's "Vienna Life," a bi-weekly, as the front-runner. The other two suffer from ill-advised use of English—as for instance, when Zafar Anjum's "Danube Monthly" said in an article on the carnival season that "the firemen, the policemen, the lawyers and doctors all assemble to hold their balls."

## Soviet Journalist Explains Defection

*This is a passage from an article by the Soviet defector and leading journalist Oleg Bitov. As chief of the Department of International Culture in "Literaturnaya Gazeta" he was sent in September, 1983, to cover the Venice Film Festival. Instead, he left the room in Venice where he was living on a straightened per diem of \$15 a day, and vanished.*

*The Soviet government claimed that he had been kidnapped by the CIA, striving to set up an international scandal. The CIA denied the charge. Eventually Bitov surfaced in London. He explained that his decision to defect, leaving a dependent mother, wife and 15 year-old daughter, was the result of long reflection and discontent, especially with Soviet censorship. The final decision to break was forced on him, he said, by the shooting down of an unarmed South Korean airliner by Soviet air defenses.*

*The following excerpt was translated by George Weller from the copyright version in Italy's leading daily, the "Corriere della Sera."*

From many questions put to me in the west, I have an impression that some people here are convinced that every Soviet journalist or writer has his own personal censor, savage, even armed, watching him behind his back, eager to stop him if anything he says doesn't fit the orthodox, official policy line.

If only the truth were as simple as that!

It would be so much easier to keep one's distance from any watchdog, to deceive and subvert him, than it actually is to escape from the internal censor that has burrowed into the very marrow of our bones.

In fact, in the Soviet Union, censorship is our life, and life itself is censorship. Neither can gain hold without the other being present. Practically speaking, all the newspapers and magazines are supervised by official censors, women as well as men. Without their approval not a single edition can go to press.

Yet the truth is that these people use their scissors only rarely. Usually there is only one chief censor for a publication. In the largest publishing houses, however, censors operate in teams, in order to be able to control several different publications at once.

However, censors would simply never get their team work finished if they did not enjoy the helpful assistance of the staffers themselves. In reality, our reporters are so docile that in many cases

censors are able to give the stamp of approval without even a single correction, even without any comment.

There exist, it is true, hundreds if not thousands of immutable rules. They are all published in fat volumes put out by the chief censorship office, the "Glavlit." The paradoxical fact is that the majority of our reporters have never seen these volumes of rules. Nevertheless, acting for the most part instinctively, they accept these rules, without even thinking about it, conforming to habits that last a lifetime.

As for the directors of the newspapers, they never raise a word of protest against this state of things. Given the fact that competition between one newspaper and another is practically non-existent—and this is also due to 90% of our circulation being by mail—there is no gain to be had through risking conflicts with the censors. It is so much easier to play safe and dismiss any contrary itches.

Besides, unruffled editors like these prefer to have unruffled subordinates, staffers who are politically housebroken, the type who agree with every decision beforehand, provided there is someone in authority behind it. They like people who agree with everything in advance, who put out a structurally harmonious article with a nice even style. What they want are journalistic robots, carefully trained and professionally domesticated.

As for myself, I have—unlike Orwell's character Winston Smith—always had a restless, intractable nature, dissatisfied by any form of personal favoritism, forever hunting for the supreme privilege of all: that of liberty to express oneself.

For many years I did my best to get along with our system, to figure out ways to get around it, avoiding its rigid demands and rules.

From time to time I have had moments of inner satisfaction when I managed to get away with publishing some article or story that worked around our rules and penalties. But it was never easy to make it. At the end, when I got the idea that it was no longer possible for me even to slip around the rules, I defied the system—by simply withdrawing from it.

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*Irvin S. Taubkin, Editor; Helen Alpert, Charles J. Schreiber, Lawrence Stessin, Associate Editors.*

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## What They're Doing

It has been a busy—but rewarding—Spring for OPCer *E. W. Williams*. He has been 40 years in the business of recording and contributing to the success of the frozen food business. So this year he was awarded its Lifetime Achievement Award by the Private Label Manufacturers Association. Williams is publisher of *Private Label Magazine*. He was also awarded its first Leadership Award by the International Frozen Food Association. He was also inducted into the Zerocrats, a group of pioneers in the frozen food business. Altogether, some very warming experiences for E. W.

\* \* \*

Our Canadian member, *Harry Rasky*, is bursting with pride these days. His film "Stratasphere," based on the life and performance of Teresa Stratas, will be shown May 16 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Rasky will be there to lecture on the art of the art film. Retrospectives of "Raskymentary Films" will take place this year in China, England and in the U.S.

\* \* \*

Our own *Duncan MacDonald*, known for years for her daily interview program on WQXR, and who had also been executive assistant to the editor of *House Beautiful* magazine, is now features editor of a new weekly newspaper, the *Martha's Vineyard Times*. Duncan had also been executive director of the National Friends of Public Broadcasting.

\* \* \*

"An unpretentious Soviet publication enjoys a circulation of nearly 17 million, outdistancing *Pravda* and *Izvestia* and putting it among the biggest in the world along with *Reader's Digest* and *TV Guide*."

That's OPCer *Jack Harrison Pollack's* lead on a fascinating story in the *Wall Street Journal* about that country's health magazine, "Zdorovie," Russian for health. It reports simply and factually, he notes, avoiding "politically sensitive" topics like homosexuality, suicide or the health of the country's leaders. It helps mobilize public opinion behind government health programs, like one on alcoholism.

\* \* \*

*Laurence J. Pett* (active-non-resident) photographer/journalist, of Tarzana, CA., recently returned from a 8-day visit to Madrid, Leon and Santiago, Spain and his photography will appear in *Goodlife*

Magazine and the New Orleans Times-Picayune. The trip covered part of the journey made by pilgrims to the holy site of Santiago de Compostela, where St. James is reported buried. During the Middle Ages Santiago ranked along with Rome and Jerusalem as the destinations for Catholic pilgrims.

\* \* \*

*Dick Hyman's* "The Trenton Pickle Ordinance" which was first published by The Stephen Greene Press in 1976 and to date gone to 12 printings has now been released in paperback. This is his 18th published book since his first one *IT'S THE LAW* was brought out by Doubleday in 1937, then known as Doubleday Doran.

Our own *June Vanleer Williams* took time off recently from writing and editing for the *Call and Post* in Cleveland to write a play, "The Eyes of the Lofty." It was presented during March and April in Cleveland by the Karamu Alumni as a tribute to the late Avon Long, who contributed much to the theater and its people. The play's title is from Isaiah 5:15, "And man shall be brought down, and man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the Lofty shall be brought low."

\* \* \*

*Dayna Smith*, *Washington Times*, and *David Leeson*, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, both photographers, put their lives on the line recently in El Salvador.

In the dusty town of Comalapa they were detained overnight by guerrillas dressed in U.S. Army issue, carrying M-16 rifles and M-65 machine guns.

The guerrillas, convinced they were U.S. advisers, threatened to kill them. Once reassured they were instead journalists, Smith and Leeson were released.

OPC'er *Gregory McDonald*, who used to report for the Boston Globe, spent a few days at the club recently with his wife. He has two novels out this season, "Carioca Fletch" and "Flynn's In." His "Fletch" will start its filming this month, starring Chevy Chase.

\* \* \*

Seen around the club recently, greeting and inbibing with old friends, was OPC'er *Jim Wessel*, who used to be with the AP. He is now happily retired in Virginia.

\* \* \*

Last month was a big one for our own *Alfred W. Balk*. He received Northwestern University's annual Merit Award, given to alumni who have distinguished themselves in their field of endeavor and so reflect credit on their alma mater.

Al qualified by what he has done, as editor and publisher, for *World Press Review*, doubling the circulation of this monthly foreign press digest in 10 years.

Before joining the Review, Al had been editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review* and an editor of the *Saturday Review* as well as an active freelancer and the author of several books.

## Correction

The story on page 4 of the May 1984 issue, headed "FOUNDATION GETS CARTWRIGHT GIFT"—The OPC Foundation was not the recipient of the donation by Marguerite Cartwright in memory of her husband Leonard Carl Cartwright, but rather the Madeline Dane Ross Award account which awards a \$500 award annually in the OPC ANNUAL AWARDS COMPETITION to the person/persons in any media demonstrating a concern for humanity.

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